



# • INFO memo - May 28, 2004

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## **Hot Weather Ushers in City Pool Openings**

The start of the Memorial Day weekend brought out a hot sun Friday and sunny skies, which should add to the appeal of the openings of Broken Arrow's City swimming pools Saturday (May 29).

Last summer the Family Aquatic Center in Central Park was the only City pool open to the public. A new pool at Country Aire park was not completed in time. Saturday at 12:30 residents in Country Aire will hold a ceremony marking the opening of the new pool. The old pool at Central Park is being used only for learn to swim lessons. Those begin June 7, and continue through the end of July.

Daily fees for the pools are \$2 for children and \$3 for adults at the FAC and \$1 for children and \$2 for adults at County Aire. Season passes can be purchased for \$40 (child), \$45 (adults) and \$110 (family). Contact the Community Center in Central Park for more information or to buy your passes.

The FAC is open from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday of each week and closed Mondays for maintenance and special events. Country Aire is open from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Monday of each week and closed on Tuesdays.

Those interested in booking parties at either of the pools should call the Parks & Recreation Department at 259-8380. Payments for reservations must be pre-paid at the Community Center or the Parks Administrative offices at 201 S. First (across the street from City Hall).

Krystal Ridenour, enrollment supervisor for the Learn to Swim program, reports that going into this week there were 524 children signed up, with more than 30 classes already filled. The sessions consist of four 40-minute classes each week for two weeks. The younger children (infants) attend 30-minute classes and must have an adult in the water with them.

Enrollment may be done over the phone (259-8436) by credit card, or parents may come to the Community Center at 1500 S. Main.

## **Swim Classes Filling Up Fast**

The school year ended Thursday in Broken Arrow, but classes in the City's annual Learn to Swim program won't begin until June 7. Those who have not yet registered their children are urged to do so quickly. As of May 13, 411 children had already been enrolled.

"We have 13 classes that have only one spot left in them and 14 classes already full," said Registration Coordinator Krystal Ridenour. "Also, we have a waiting list started for some of those full classes."

The first two-week session in the program begins June 7. There are four classes each week, or a total of eight (Monday through Thursday), for each of the sessions. Cost of the sessions is \$40, and children from 6 months and up are eligible. The City provides Red Cross trained instructors. Classes for the little ones (six months to three years) are "parent assisted," with a parent in the water with the child. Those classes for the younger ones are 30 minutes in duration, with normal classes 40 minutes long.

Classes range from those introduction to water programs up to Level 7 for advanced swimmers (10 and up).

The Family Aquatic Center and the new pool at Country Aire will open Memorial Day weekend (May 29). The old pool at Central Park will be used only for Learn to Swim classes this summer.

Information is available on the City's web site ([www.brokenarrowok.gov](http://www.brokenarrowok.gov)), with a link from the home page. Forms, along with payment, must be brought into the Community Center. Registration will continue through the summer, as openings permit. The final sessions start July 19. For more information call 259-8436.

## **Central Park Gearing Up for Concerts**

While swimmers do their thing nearby, Broken Arrowans who enjoy live music under the stars will be returning to Central Park on Tuesday nights starting June 1.

That's the date for the first of five Tuesdays in the Park concerts, a cooperative effort between the City Parks & Recreation Department and the Broken Arrow Arts & Humanities Council.

These concerts begin at 6:30 p.m. and are held in the area just south of the tennis courts and west of the Family Aquatic Center. There is no cost of admission. Some soft drinks and food will be available through vendors. Spectators may bring their own chairs, blankets, etc., but no alcoholic beverages are permitted.

In addition to those concerts June 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, there will be a new event at Central Park this year: the Heritage Bluegrass Festival on June 19.

Central Park is located at 1500 S. Main in Broken Arrow and has undergone significant renovation during the past several months, including new, wider bridges, landscaping and water drainage.

On June 1 the theme will be Gospel Night, with several groups set to perform. June 8 will feature Jazz Night, with Chuck Cissel and Earl Clark in the spotlight.

The Starlight Band comes to the mobile Park stage (Showmobile) on June 15, and the following Tuesday will feature the Smith Brothers and their renditions of rock and roll from the 60s and 70s.

The final Tuesday in June will highlight Bluegrass music.

The Heritage Bluegrass Festival will run from 12 noon to 10 p.m. on Saturday, June 19, and is also free and open to the public. It's presented by the Arts & Humanities Council, Harmony House Guitars and the BA Parks Department.

Included among the performers will be Spring Street, Cedar Hill, Nicole Brand & Friends, Goldrush Bluegrass Co., Heartland Express, IIIrd Generation and Arbuckles. Sound is provided by Randy Keisler.

## **City Crews Clean Up After Spring Clean-Up Day**

Broken Arrow's annual Spring Clean-Up Day was held on a drizzly Saturday, May 1, but for Public Works employees, the clean-up didn't end until the following Tuesday.

That's how long it took to finish hauling off all the trash, old furniture, etc., that was brought in to the City's Maintenance Center on May 1. Public Works Director Dave Wooden reports that a total of 166 dump truck loads were taken to landfills after the event, which is sponsored free of cost to BA residents each spring.

The dump trucks keep up with most of the trash during the day of the event, but there's always plenty left to haul off the following week. Wooden reports that there were 326.4 hours of dump truck work used during the three days.

## **Planning Heats Up for Vision 2025 Projects**

Broken Arrow Parks & Recreation Director Scott Esmond reports that meetings have begun with architects at Nienhuis Park to plan Phase II buildings at that site which will be funded by Vision 2025 moneys.

The Youth Center building, funded by City bond issues, is nearly completed and due to be open sometime in July. Funds from Vision 2025 will help provide a multi-purpose building and a gym.

Esmond also points out that his crews are busy making final preparations for the opening of the swimming season May 29 at the Family Aquatic Center in Central Park and the new pool at Country Aire Park. The pools will be open through that first weekend before going to their regular weekly schedule the first full week in June. The FAC will be open Tuesday through Sunday each week and Country Aire Wednesday through Monday.

## **Police Department Receives Praise**

Broken Arrow Police Chief Todd Wuestewald relays words of praise for several of his officers – some for work in the field and some for special projects.

Capt. Carole Newell was cited for her presentation at Kirk Dinner Klub members May 7. Herb Jelley, Program Coordinator, wrote his thanks to Newell, saying that many members of Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church had been talking about her program on personal safety. "The fact that so many people had questions at the end of your talk and that so many others wanted to speak to you individually after the meeting is a good indication of the value they placed on your presentation. The advice you gave us, your informal manner, and your great sense of humor made the evening memorable."

Wuestewald also received a letter from Jeanne M. Draughon, the Parish Nurse at Church of Saint Benedict, thanking the BAPD and Fire departments for putting together a school safety assembly April 27. She said about 300 students and teachers participated in the assembly.

Coming in for special thanks from the school were Offices Paul Treat, Marc Baldwin, Brian Durling, Keith Cook, Dee Dee Collins, Communications Supervisor Lela Fox, Tavia Dooley and Lisa Ford.

The Police Chief sent letters of commendation to Cpl. Scott Lillard and Officers John Daniels, Mike Shaw and Chris Walker after their efforts in the case of a man who left the scene of a domestic violence incident, reportedly suicidal and armed with a pistol. He took his 11-year-old son with him.

The officers responding to that call found the truck in a church parking lot, and made a traffic stop on it as the man tried to leave. He jumped out of his truck and shouted at the officers to shoot him, grabbed his son and held him as a shield as he continued to taunt the officers, said Wuestewald in his letters. "You were able to determine that the suspect did not have a gun, at which time you rushed and subdued him while freeing the boy from his grasp," said the letter. "The subject was later determined to be mentally unstable and was taken into protective custody.

"Your restraint and valor are to be commended. You displayed tremendous composure and coordination in the decisive action which ended this tense situation. It is an honor to be associated with you."

Detectives Buzz Morrill and Shawn Presley were commended for their "diligent and aggressive investigation of a series of indecent exposures," which led to the arrest of a suspect. "Your quick action in making a case on this individual has prevented continuation of these incidents," said Wuestewald in his letters, "as well as possible escalation of the nature of the suspect's crimes. Well done."

Morrill, Presley and Officer Eric Helveston were also commended for their work in solving a burglary case, leading to the recovery of \$18,000 in golf clubs that had been taken from a local country club.

The case was solved after a high school student bragged in school about his alleged involvement in the burglary, and how the clubs were going to be sold on the Internet. Another student told him parents, who called the BAPD. Helveston took a supplemental report and notified the detectives. They questioned suspects at the school and were able to get an admission to the burglary.

"Thanks to your efforts," said Wuestewald, "four suspects have been identified, with charges pending and most of the stolen property recovered. Good job!"

And a BA resident wrote in appreciation for the efforts of several officers who assisted after the recovery of a purse stolen in Tulsa. "I did get my purse back late that night, minus driver's license and miscellaneous. During the day, though, when some could-be-lunatic had my keys, officers drove by my house several times to make sure everything looked okay. Two detectives went with me to try to retrieve my purse and two officers also came and cleared my house for me that night when I still did not have my purse or keys. I realize that purse snatching isn't a major crime when compared to what else you have going on daily. However, when someone has your house keys and you have three children at home, it's a little disconcerting. I appreciate all the efforts made by the Broken Arrow Police officers and detectives to help me retrieve my purse and keep us safe."

Rita Whitekeller, Supervisor of the BAPD Animal Shelter, wrote to praise citizen Kevin Henke, who "donated \$106.85 worth of dog food to the City of Broken Arrow Animal Shelter. We appreciate what he has done for the animals."

## **Fire Department Praised Also**

Acting City Manager Gary Blackford received a letter from a local resident who wished to thank paramedics Stanley Spradlin and Dustin Lunow, who responded to a call at the home of a 98-year-old woman who had fallen at the home of one of her other sons.

When the son arrived, he found "my mother in the fetal position, bleeding from the head, elbow and knee....I immediately called 9-1-1 and they dispatched an ambulance, which arrived a short time later.

After identifying the two attendants, the man said, "In my 38 years of Public Safety, I have never observed any more professionalism to a patient than these two individuals showed for my mother. As you are aware, this can be a very traumatic experience for any elderly person. The comfort they provided to her verbally was second to none. Thanks to their concern and care, I am sure that she will enjoy her upcoming 99<sup>th</sup> birthday."

Interim Fire Chief Greg Neely was given a letter of thanks from Police Chief Todd Wuestewald for his help in conducting a class of the Incident Command System for sergeants and captains of the PD.

"The management staff that attended your class spoke highly of the material and your delivery," said Wuestewald. "Your expertise in this area is an asset to the City. As you know, ICS is an important aspect of the cooperative management of critical incidents. In the age in which we live, integrated emergency management has become a vital component of the public safety mission. Our respective employees' joint attendance at this training, as well as their mutual involvement in the WMD (weapons of mass destruction) exercise later this week will help prepare them to work together in the event of disaster."

Neely's expertise will also be utilized in July at the First Annual International Fire Service Journal Leadership Management Research Symposium at Oklahoma

State University. He is one of the featured “national and international academicians and prominent fire service professionals” who will serve on panels at the symposium.